

# SUGAR PLANTATIONS

## WAREHOUSES FILL WITH SUGAR THAT AWAITS SHIPMENT

Stock On Hand Increases Forty Percent In Month and Will Pile Up Faster

## LITTLE SHIPPING FOR APRIL IS NOW SEEN

Movements For Last Month Were Large But Did Not Check Accumulations

Sugar is rapidly piling up in the warehouses. Last month movement of sugar on the face of the reports appeared to be considerably better and they were better than there is reason to expect them to be this month, but, notwithstanding better shipping facilities, there has been a large growth in the stocks on hand that are awaiting shipment. The increase during March was more than forty percent and there is now on hand and waiting for shipment more than 47,000 tons of sugar.

Reports to the shipping board representative here by the various agencies of the amount of sugar awaiting shipment as of April 1 show a total of 47,000 tons. On the first of March the sugar waiting shipment was about 33,000 tons, an increase for the month of nearly 14,000 tons.

Shipments to date are approximately 14,000 tons of sugar or about twenty-six and two-thirds percent of the estimated crop. There has been ground and shipped or is held ready for shipment when space is available more than thirty-five percent of the estimated crop. Shipments last year to April 1 were 169,730 tons so that so far as a comparison of shipments goes the movement of this crop is only about 29,000 tons below that of last year. At that time there was an accumulation of sugar awaiting shipment, however, and complaint was heard that it was impossible to keep up with the promulgated schedule.

Last month sugar movements were the best of the present crop. Vessels of all sizes and types departed and the result was a movement which was above what may be expected to be the normal. This month there is not a word of shipping in sight and it must be expected that sugar will pile up as fast, probably faster, than it did last month. This will mean more than 60,000 tons of sugar awaiting shipment by the first of May.

The explanation is simple. The shipping of the country has had to go to the Atlantic and Hawaii has had to make the best of such shipping as the shipping board has been able to furnish. No complaint against the shipping board is being voiced in any quarter. The belief prevails that the board is doing the best it can. There is, however, a growing feeling of disquietude and uneasiness among the sugar producers.

Many of the vessels that have been sent down here have proved disappointments. Shippers were led in advance to expect larger available cargo spaces than was found to be available when it came to load. An instance of this is cited as recently occurring at Hilo. The vessel had been expected to take 3500 tons but it was found that she was only suited to take 1800 tons. While the news that there are to be built in Oregon 150 wooden, motor-driven ships to be used mostly in the Pacific trade, it is said, was favorably received here it is recognized that these can not be available for the movement of this year's crop though they may be available for the next. On the other hand the fear is expressed that when that time comes these vessels may be needed for the carrying of food to France, for there will be required a vastly increased tonnage on the Atlantic to carry to the army of the size now expected for next year the supplies which it will need.

## BEET SUGAR CROP FALLS AWAY DOWN

The American beet sugar crop which year before last reached 741,000 long tons, is now reported by the United States Department of Agriculture as falling 108,000 tons below the estimate that was made for the total crop of the year just ended, 1917, which has turned out to be 633,000 long tons, 880,000 long tons having been expected, based upon the 741,000 tons of the year 1916, this loss of nearly 200,000 tons of sugar from the estimates that were made for the beet sugar of last year, accounts in some degree for some of the shortage of sugar. The beet sugar industry since the advent of the European war, has been actively stimulated by the higher price prevailing for sugar, and those engaged in the manufacture of beet sugar have made every effort to encourage the cultivation of more and more sugar beets. The expected increase in the production of sugar beets was apparently warranted by the results of the crop of 1916, but the great drought prevailing throughout the world apparently seems to have had its injurious effects on the sugar beet crop, as well as upon our corn and wheat crops, lessening the final results.

## FOOD PRICES SOAR BUT SUGAR IS LOW

Investigation Shows Product To Be Among the Cheapest of All Food Stuffs

NEW ORLEANS, March 12.—An investigation of the cost of various staple articles of food conducted by Secretary Joe B. Chaffee, of the American Cane Growers' Association, has brought out some interesting comparisons. The inquiry takes account of the advances in price that have occurred during the past year and shows that, while sugar increased only 10.79 percent, the average advance in nine other staples averaged 45.51 percent.

Comparative Figures  
The figures used in this comparison were obtained by examining bona fide price lists issued February 11, 1918, and February 12, 1917, by one of the largest wholesale grocery houses in New Orleans for the information of its traveling salesmen. They show the following advances: Meat, 53.02 percent; lard, 66.17 percent; butter, 2.96 percent; cheese, 21.97 percent; cod fish, 75.89 percent; flour, 25.43 percent; cornmeal and grits, 91.86 percent; beans and peas, 37.21 percent, and grain and feedstuff, 58.52 percent, or an average of 45.51 percent.

Mr. Chaffee selected these items for the reason that they represent the principal articles of food used in the sugar belt. He has not yet completed his investigations, but estimate the advances in some of the principal articles which contribute to the cost of sugar production at 30 percent for fuel oil, 40 percent for bags and barrels, 1.00 percent for sugar, which is replaced from season to season.

Comparison of prevailing prices of all items entering into the cost of producing sugar in Louisiana with those which obtained during the seasons of 1909-10, 1910-11 and 1911-12 would show astonishing advances in comparison with the relatively slight rise in sugar since the world's production was curtailed by the war.

## LEAF HOPPER PLAGUE CAREFULLY WATCHED

"Unfavorable weather conditions are apt to be followed by plague of one kind or another," said a representative of a local sugar agency in speaking of the leaf hopper and its ravages last year and what may be expected this year. "With normal conditions of weather, I believe the parasites will get the best of the hopper."

Heavy rains of the preceding year were blamed last year for the alarming increase in leaf hopper, especially on the island of Hawaii, where these rains had been the heaviest. It was said the rains had washed away the parasites, which are the smaller, and permitted the hopper to unduly increase.

During the severe drought on Hawaii last year it was suggested that the dry weather might prove a benefit so far as the leaf hopper plague was concerned, though it was most serious in its damage to the growing crops. The theory was that the dry spell would permit the tiny parasite to increase more rapidly and gain the ascendancy over the plague. Whether the theory worked out has not been fully determined, and a part of any good weather is likely to have been lost by reason of the heavy rains in some sections that have occurred during the winter.

Reports generally are that the leaf hopper is bad again this year where it was bad last year, but that it is too early to determine how serious the ravages will be or whether the theory that the parasite would increase more rapidly than normally during the drought, holds true or not.

Hawaii will suffer again this year much as it did last, is admitted.

It is said there is more than the ordinary amount of leaf hopper trouble on Oahu this year. This was reported unofficially recently by a man well known in the sugar industry, though he gave no particular locations or specific instances.

## JAVA CROP WAISTS SHIPS

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, March 11.—Sixty percent of the entire 1917 sugar crop of Java is still held in that island, waiting for ships to move it to market, according to a statement made by B. Braat, one of the directors of a house dealing in sugar machinery in Java.

Mr. Braat estimates the amount of sugar held in Java at 1,250,000 tons. Mr. Braat visited Salt Lake to purchase machinery for export to Java. His mission will take him to New York and other Eastern cities.

## BOWEL COMPLAINT IN CHILDREN

During the summer months children are subject to disorders of the bowels and should receive the most careful attention. As soon as any unnatural looseness of the bowels is noticed Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy should be given. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.—Adv.

HONOKAWAI TUNNEL borings have met. Here are shown parts of the system that will furnish 50,000,000 gallons of water daily to Pioneer Mill Company. Above is shown the intake at the forebay and below the pipe lines as they cross a gulch.



## Honokawai Tunnel Is Now Drawing Near To Completion

Borings Have Met and System May Be Complete Next Month; Will Furnish Fifty Million Gallons of Water Daily to Pioneer Mill Company

During the drought on Maui last year the fields of Pioneer Mill Company suffered less than other plantations because of the irrigation system which the company had installed previously. At that time a large increase in water supply had not only been planned but the plans were well underway. This was the Honokawai water project, started early in 1917, and now the borings for its main tunnels have met. It is expected that next month, or possibly a month later, will see the completion of the tunnel. May was mentioned as the probable time in the annual report of the manager and at the last meeting of the directors they were told the borings had met.

On a smaller scale, it is true, but very much in the same way, the Honokawai tunnels will be to Pioneer what the Waialeale project has been and is to Oahu Sugar Company. The main tunnel will be, as completed, more than 4800 feet in length.

This tunnel system will cut across five ridges and will replace an equal or longer distance of metal flumes. It will make available a daily supply of 50,000,000 gallons of water. There is also a diversion tunnel a thousand feet in length which will carry a part of the flow to the main tunnel. Its capacity is 25,000 gallons. The general tunnel system is to carry all the available fresh water and to make it available. The tunnel is to be concrete lined.

The larger flow which will result from the completion of this project will not only make available a larger supply of water for irrigation, it will in addition furnish the power for further development of the hydroelectric system of the company which furnishes the power required for the greater part of the irrigation.

## WAR SAVINGS STAMPS PAY FEES OF DIRECTORS

War Savings Stamps as fees for the directors of the sugar companies at their meetings is the latest patriotic move in Honolulu. An example of this was given at a meeting of the directors of the Waialeale Sugar Company held at the office of C. Brewer & Company on Wednesday. At this meeting each director was paid in War Savings Stamps and the difference, eighty-six cents, was paid in change. But this cash was not retained for the secretary of the company proceeded to sell additional stamps to the directors to utilize the cash balance.

## MONTREAL SUFFERS FROM ACUTE SUGAR SHORTAGE

MONTREAL, Quebec, March 4.—A refined sugar famine exists in Montreal. During the past week even the big stores of the city were without stocks of white sugar and were supplying their customers with limited quantities of "yellow No. 1." Similar conditions of scarcity are reported to exist in many other parts of Canada and are ascribed by dealers to slow movement of new supplies of cane sugar. Improvement in conditions is not expected in trade circles to take place until after the end of March.

## LACK OF FACILITIES TO STORE SUGAR WORRIES CUBAN GROWERS

HAVANA, Cuba, March 9.—The question of sugar storage facilities in Cuba is one that is receiving increasing serious consideration, both in the sugar industry and among other interests which are affected by it. Not only is available storage space being more and more taken up as the nature of sugar increases, and the need for more warehouses becomes more sharply felt, but the pressure for prompt movement of the crop is apparent in the general transportation situation.

## Export Movement Increasing

As given by Himely, these figures show that exportations for the week ending March 2 amounted to 92,080 tons, of which 29,445 tons went to Great Britain. This export movement, taken in connection with the good showing made in the previous week, when 36,262 tons went to Europe out of a total of 110,211 tons exported, shows that at the present time the sugar movement is exceeding the contract obligations. During these two weeks France and Great Britain have taken 66,000 tons, an amount equal to their obligations for two months. These countries are now slightly ahead of their quotas under the agreement, while the United States is some 50,000 tons ahead of its obligation to date.

While the accumulation of stocks in Cuba is bound to continue until the output of the mills commences to decrease again, the larger export movement indicates that the accumulation will not proceed so rapidly henceforth, and that the pressure on storage facilities will be lessened to some extent, while the fact that both the United States and the Allies are now level with or ahead of their obligations in the matter of taking the crop is naturally encouraging to the producers.

At the same time, in view of the uncertainty attending the general shipping situation and the possibility that the tonnage provided for Cuba's use may later have to be curtailed, the sugar companies of the island are not losing sight of the importance of increasing their warehousing facilities as far as possible. Many of them, as already mentioned, are now building, while others have under consideration plans for enlarging their capacities.

The only central affected at which a settlement has so far been reached is Panto Viejo, near Humacao, where an agreement was arrived at and the men returned to work this week. What effect the Governor's appeal will have on the situation at Panto Viejo is not yet apparent, but the men are still holding out.

## DRAFT IS CAUSE OF BUT LITTLE WORRY

Would Not Occasion Labor Shortage But Mobilization of Guard Might Do So

Sugar planters are marking time and waiting to see how the draft will be conducted and whether the national guard will be mobilized. They fear little for the result of the draft as it may affect unskilled labor on the plantations for they believe that the sugar industry will be protected under the new regulations which defer the classification of those engaged in necessary agricultural pursuits.

If, however, the guard shall be called out and mobilized as it is at present constituted it would be a more serious matter for the sugar growers for they would lose many hundred laborers. Thus it is that the selective draft would be unlikely to cause any real shortage of plantation labor while the mobilization of the militia would possibly do so.

It has been suggested that one reason for the requiring of guardsmen as well as civilians to register was to secure a classification of guardsmen and their value to the country in their regular pursuits and means of livelihood. The possibility of excusing from service, in case of mobilization, guardsmen needed especially for plantation work is being discussed.

Despite the fact that guardsmen were required to register just as were civilians gave rise to the impression that guardsmen were to be drafted just as civilians and the guard would not be mobilized. Recently there has been some change of view and once more the possibility of the utilization of the guard to replace regular army troops taken from here attracts attention. With the urgent demand in France for all available troops the possibility of taking all of the regulars from here is thought by some to be growing into a certainty.

The labor situation does not appear to be viewed with any degree of alarm here. It is said the greatest part, by far, of the Class A men is to be found in the cities and the towns and largely among the white population. If not more than two or three hundred be taken from the plantations, they can be readily replaced, it is claimed. If, however, several hundred should be taken, the situation would be different.

## AMERICAN SUGAR CO. SENDS ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the annual report of the American Sugar Refining Company have been received. The report is typographically as artistic as have been most of the recent reports of the company.

Following a roster of the officers of the company is the report of the board of directors, bearing date March 13, which makes a splendid showing. Among the subdivisions contained in the report are comparative statements of sugar, exports of refined sugar, income from investments, betterments and depreciation, pension fund, litigation, advertising and sales, and organizations and stockholders. Fourteen tabular statements and charts follow, the whole book making up thirty-six pages and cover.

During the year 1917 the company paid more than six and a quarter millions in dividends.

## STRIKE SITUATION IN PORTO RICO IS WORSE

NEW YORK, March 10.—The strike movement among laborers in the Porto Rican sugar industry has assumed more threatening proportions during the present week, in spite of the efforts by insular and Federal officials to bring about a settlement, said a special cable to Facts About Sugar, dated from San Juan, March 14. So critical is the situation considered that Special Agent F. C. Roberts, representing the Department of Labor, called Secretary Wilson today predicting that 30,000 men would be out by Saturday unless prompt assurances came from Washington that the Federal government would intervene in the present tense situation.

With the purpose of checking the spread of the strike agitation, at least until an attempt at a settlement by conciliatory measures can be made, Governor Yager has issued a statement, addressed to the strikers at Pajardo, but applying to the situation as a whole, in which he advises the men that to strike without first submitting their demands to their employers is "unpatriotic and un-American."

The only central affected at which a settlement has so far been reached is Panto Viejo, near Humacao, where an agreement was arrived at and the men returned to work this week. What effect the Governor's appeal will have on the situation at Panto Viejo is not yet apparent, but the men are still holding out.

## Sugar Supplies For New York Market Increase Steadily

Shipping Situation Improved and Dutch Ships May Be Used To Move Crops More Rapidly From Cuba and Porto Rico

NEW YORK CITY, March 18.—Although the volume of sales for the past week was not quite as large as that recorded in the previous week, a fair amount of purchases were arranged for by the International Sugar Committee. They consisted of approximately 30,000 long tons of Cuban, 15,000 tons of Porto Rican and 6000 tons of Fall duty sugars.

Facts About Sugar Reports  
The purchases of Cubans for March 3 shipment were arranged for totals about 215,000 tons, and leaves another 35,000 tons to be arranged for if the committee's plan to move 250,000 tons of Cubans in March is carried out. The purchase of this small remaining tonnage will very likely be largely completed in the coming week. All of the purchases of full duty sugars for the week, as has been the case for some weeks past, were allocated to the Canadian refiners.

Ship Situation Better.  
The shipping situation continues to show a steady improvement and all doubts as to the March movement of Cubans exceeding the tonnage of both January and February have apparently been dispelled by the favorable developments that have taken place during the week. The fact that the United States and Great Britain have notified Holland of their intention to take over Dutch ships in American and Entente ports as of March 18 unless the Netherlands government is able to reach a definite agreement by that time, apparently indicates that the Dutch ships which were assigned to the West Indian sugar carrying trade and later withdrawn will be reassigned to this service the coming week. These Dutch vessels to the number of fourteen represent fairly large sized carriers and when again secured by the Joint Committee on West Indies Transportation will considerably facilitate the prompt movement of Cubans.

Dutch Ships Needed  
As the Dutch vessels in American waters aggregate about 600,000 tons of tonnage, it is not impossible that a number in addition to the fourteen steamers noted above will be assigned to the committee as sugar carriers. Should the Shipping Board also decide not to disturb the tonnage allocated to the committee to replace the Dutch steamers when they were first withdrawn, it would result in a marked speeding up in the movement of raws to the American market and shipping prospects in event of such a happening would indeed present a very bright outlook.

Based on the latest figures obtainable it is apparent that the forwarding of Cuban sugars to American refiners points is not only exceeding expectations but is even of larger proportions than was pointed out on this page in last week's issue. The total tonnage so far moved from the opening of the crop season in December to the present date, plus the amount of sugar now loading, is reported to exceed 718,000 tons. If additional steamers can be secured in the coming week to augment the tonnage already assigned for the balance of March loadings the total movement of Cubans to the United States should run well above 800,000 tons and permit the International Sugar Committee to carry out its plan of acquiring a full 250,000 tons for March delivery.

Cuban Crop Good  
The week's cables from Cuba continue to be as optimistic as they have been every week for the past two months. According to the most recent estimates approximately one third of the anticipated crop of 3,775,000 ordinary tons, as estimated by Facts About Sugar, has been harvested. The weather remains favorable and there is less complaint from the producers concerning the scarcity of labor, and little unrest among the laborers, due to the high wages they are receiving. The sugar yield is also giving general satisfaction, and, taking all the above into consideration it would seem that the present Cuban crop season has rarely had its equal in the past as to the favorable developments so far recorded or in facing such bright prospects as to the future.

There have been no developments of importance in the refined market for the week. Slowly, it is true, but nevertheless surely, sugar is becoming more plentiful, and is more widely distributed than has been the case for many months. Eastern refiners' meltings continue steadily to mount each week, and after the government's requirements are taken care of, a moderate volume of allotments are being made to the trade in the Middle West and Southwest a slightly freer movement of beet sugar from the Western factories is taking place, while in the far West and on the Pacific Coast ample supplies are available.

## PUSH FACTORY WORK

SPRINGVILLE, Utah, March 11.—Taking advantage of improved weather conditions, the Springville-Mapleton Sugar Company has largely increased the construction gang working on the new factory for which it has broken ground near here. It is announced that an effort will be made to push the factory to completion in time to operate in 1918.